

Welcome to the Adopt-An-Estuary Curriculum!

Adopt An Estuary Curriculum

This program is designed to get students in grades 8-12 actively involved in discovering and protecting Wisconsin's most unique aquatic environment—its freshwater estuaries.

The program's goal is for students to study and formally adopt a Wisconsin estuary. Progressing through the curriculum's levels and completing assignments that support the level's objectives achieve the steps required to "file" adoption papers.



The curriculum is "issue-based". It challenges students to use knowledge to investigate and resolve problems. The curriculum is arranged in four levels, each with three units. Each level has a different focus. As students progress through the curriculum "wheel", they move from a basic understanding of estuaries, to identifying specific issues based on data they've collected, to creating solutions to help resolve the problem and demonstrate environmental stewardship. The curriculum ends with the students filing "adoption papers" with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, for formal recognition of their project and estuary stewardship.

Because curriculum levels build on each other, they should be taken in order. Forms to record student results and other supportive material are attached to each unit. The curriculum is available in paper copy or on disk.

Units within each level are also arranged to build on each other. The "BACKGROUND" section within each unit is designed for teachers. It explains important concepts to be stressed when teaching the unit, safety issues to address, and other resources that will be helpful to them and their students.

The "ACTIVITIES" section is the portion of the curriculum that the students become actively involved in. Activities can be done as a class or student teams. Some activities will require field tours to an estuary. Students document their results on reporting forms attached to the unit. These results are compiled into an "Estuary Field Guide" that provide documentation needed for adoption.

The Adopt An Estuary Curriculum is a pilot program. We welcome your feedback on how it can be improved to better meet your needs.

Thank you for your participation in the Adopt An Estuary Curriculum!



Wisconsin Coastal Management Program

